

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McClanahan, et al. (US 5,628,578) or Cymbal (US 5,366,316).

The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite, among other things, that the safety notch defines a radial opening extending from the shaft receiving slot entirely through the cylindrical portion in a direction transverse to the axial direction, such that the shaft can pass through the radial opening when the shaft is not completely inserted into the shaft receiving slot. This configuration and functionality of the claimed safety notch is described in the Applicants' specification at page 5, paragraph 18, and is illustrated in Fig. 5.

Neither the protrusions 70 of McClanahan, nor the slots separating sides 116A and 116B in Fig. 4 of Cymbal define a radial opening that the shaft can pass through when the shaft is not completely inserted into the shaft receiving slot, as is claimed in amended claim 1. For this reason, amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are allowable over both McClanahan and Cymbal.

For these reasons, entry of this Amendment and allowance of claims 1-6 are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for a telephone conference to discuss this case at any time should the examiner feel that such a discussion would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard L. Kaiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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